

A Summary of the Coastwise Cafés - Phase 1

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What, where and when were the Coastwise Cafés?

In January and February 2024, the Coastwise project team held five Coastwise Cafés in North Norfolk - drop-in sessions to meet local people, share information and knowledge and start a process of developing next steps. They took place in Trimingham, Walcott, Happisburgh, Sheringham and Overstrand (date order).

Thank you to everybody who came along and shared their thoughts and ideas. A total of 238 local people attended the events.

The Cafés were set up to enable people to browse information about the coast and Coastwise, provide answers to specific questions (to capture data for planning the next steps), contribute local knowledge through a map-based activity, and have discussions with the project team about specific questions, what they'd like the project to accomplish, and other aspects.

Find out more about Coastwise:

<https://www.north-norfolk.gov.uk/coastwise>

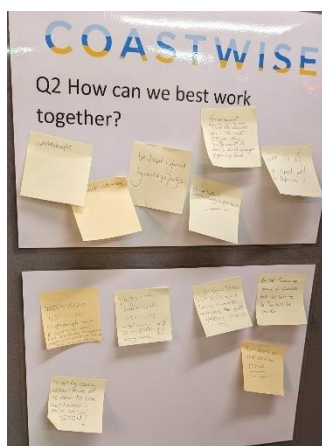
Findings from the cafes

Coastwise Cafés enabled the team to identify key indicative areas of concern to help focus work priorities, future events, activities and actions – and ultimately to develop coastal transition options.

Housing, cliff-top water management, infrastructure and access (roads, local connectivity and beach access) were identified as key issues for communities across the five locations.

Attendees contributed ideas about ways to engage in future (e.g. drop-in events to provide updates and further input, newsletters) and wanted more information on risk, policy and coastal processes, and what potential adaptation options could be. Topic highlights from the Cafés (West to East):

- In Sheringham, we heard from people in Weybourne, Beeston Regis, East and West Runton who were particularly interested in housing and financial options.
- In Overstrand, housing, roads and local connectivity, water management/drainage, options for nature-based solutions and beach access and safety were key points.
- In Trimmingham, there was a lot of discussion about water management/drainage, nature-based solutions, and loss of the coast road. A local working group has since been established.
- In Walcott, people including residents of Bacton were interested in knowing more about financial options, insurance, and the future of the gas terminal.
- In Happisburgh the key issues raised were housing, beach access, water management/drainage, heritage (particularly the church and graveyard) and discussions around sea defences.



Next steps

Visitors told us that they would like future drop-in events to keep their communities informed about the work that Coastwise is doing. Cafés will run every few months as well as tailored activities to address specific topics, issues, and place-based needs.

The next phase of Coastwise Cafés will be in July, 2:30-5:30pm:

📅 Monday 8th July **Walcott** Village Hall 📅 Tuesday 9th July **Overstrand** Parish Hall
 📅 Thursday 11th July **Trimingham** Pilgrim Shelter 📅 Tuesday 16th July **Bacton** Village Hall
 📅 Wednesday 17th July **Weybourne** Village Hall 📅 Thursday 18th July **Happisburgh** Wenn Evans Centre

Reflections

The evaluation forms for the events indicated a high level of satisfaction and identified a need and enthusiasm for ongoing face-to-face engagement and opportunities to get involved.

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The Coastwise Cafés generated a good source of data to get a feel for sense of place and what is important to local coastal communities.

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The drop-in format provided a space to have interesting, sometimes challenging, conversations about the issues being faced in some of North Norfolk's coastal places and start looking toward options for the future.

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People were interested in learning more about coastal processes, e.g., cliff dynamics, climate change and sea level rise, mapping erosion, and more.